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REFERENCE FROM COMIPAC HONOLULU HI. SSN 0 AT 13 0201Z FEBEE

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6) (U) CHINA: FIRST APPEARANCE OF NEW PLA UNIFORM.
(U) ACCORDING TO A REPORT IN THE PEOPLE'S LIBERATION ARMY'S
PLA) NEWSPAPER, JIEFANGJUN PAC, THE LONG-AWAITED NEW-STYLE PLA
UNIFORM WAS ISSUED TO A SHENYANG MILITARY REGION (MR)-BASED DIVI-
ION ON 24 FEB.

ALTHOUGH THE VALIDITY OF THE PRESS ITEM IS
DOUBTFUL, THE APPEARANCE OF THE NEW-STYLE UNIFORMS WITH UNITS
BASED IN SHENYANG MR IS NOT SURPRISING AS SHENYANG IS USUALLY AMONG
THE FIRST MILITARY REGIONS TO RECEIVE NEW EQUIPMENT. BEIJING MR
UNITS PROBABLY ARE NEXT IN LINE TO RECEIVE THE NEW UNIFORM. OF
INTEREST, THE ARTICLE MADE NO MENTION OF THE ISSUANCE OF RANK
DESIGNIA WITH THE UNIFORMS. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RANK SYSTEM IS
EXPECTED IN AUGUST.

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7) (U) CHINA: PLA UPDATE.
(U) ACCORDING TO A RECENT XINHUA (NEW CHINA NEWS AGENCY)
REPORT, ZHU YUNCIAN, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE GENERAL POLITICAL
DEPARTMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S LIBERATION ARMY (PLA) HAS ANNOUNCED THAT
THE PLA PLANS TO ADOPT A NEW PROMOTION/DEMOTION SYSTEM IN ORDER TO
ENSURE THE PROMOTION OF COMPETENT OFFICERS. THE NEW SYSTEM WOULD
ALLOW THE DEMOTION OF "INCOMPETENT OFFICERS WHO HAVE NOT COMMITTED
SERIOUS MISTAKES." HOWEVER, WHEN THESE OFFICERS HAVE PROVEN THEM-
SELVES TO BE COMPETENT, THEY SHOULD BE PROMOTED, THE ARTICLE
STATED. ZHU FURTHER INDICATED THAT PROMOTION AND DEMOTION SHOULD BE
REGARDED AS "SOMETHING NECESSARY FOR THE REVOLUTIONARY CAUSE, NOT
PERSONAL HONOR OR DISGRACE." THE REASONS FOR ADOPTING THIS NEW

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(U) THIS NEW PROMOTION/DEMOTION SYSTEM IS CONSISTENT WITH BEIJING'S REJUVENATION EFFORTS, AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE PROFESSIONALIZATION AND MODERNIZATION OF THE PLA. THE FACT THAT SUCH A SYSTEM WILL BE IMPLEMENTED INDICATES THAT THE CHINESE LEADERSHIP HAS EXPERIENCED DIFFICULTIES IN PERSUADING SOME OF THE OLDER OFFICERS TO ADHERE TO THE ONGOING RECTIFICATION EFFORTS, WHICH INCLUDE STEPPING BACK TO THE SECOND LINE AND ADOPTING THE NEW PARTY STYLE AND DISCIPLINE. IT IS ALSO LIKELY THAT MANY OF THESE PLA OFFICERS WERE "RESISTING" RETIREMENT UNTIL THEY COULD DETERMINE HOW EFFECTIVELY THE LEADERSHIP'S RECTIFICATION EFFORTS WOULD BE IMPLEMENTED, PARTICULARLY AT THE GRASSROOTS LEVEL. IN CONCLUSION, ZHU'S ANNOUNCEMENT ONCE AGAIN DEMONSTRATES BEIJING'S EMPHASIS ON THE NEED FOR THE YOUNGER GENERATION OF PROFESSIONALS TO RISE TO THE FOREFRONT OF THE PLA. HOWEVER, AS IN THE PAST, THE PROOF OF THE SUCCESS OF THIS REJUVENATION EFFORT WILL BE DEMONSTRATED BY ACTION AND NOT MERELY PROPAGANDA OR "PEP TALKS." FURTHERMORE, THE CHINESE LEADERSHIP HAS PLACED ITSELF IN A POSITION IN WHICH ITS REJUVENATION POLICY MUST BE EFFECTIVELY IMPLEMENTED, IN THE MILITARY AS WELL AS CIVILIAN SECTORS, TO PREVENT THE EMERGENCE OF DISGRUNTLEMENT ON THE PART OF THE YOUNGER PROFESSIONALS.

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